

Titan's Magic Islands: Transient Features in the Hydrocarbon Seas

Orange brownish ball
with a pale blue rim:
Titan.

Opaque to the naked eye,
the surface hidden:
mysterious.

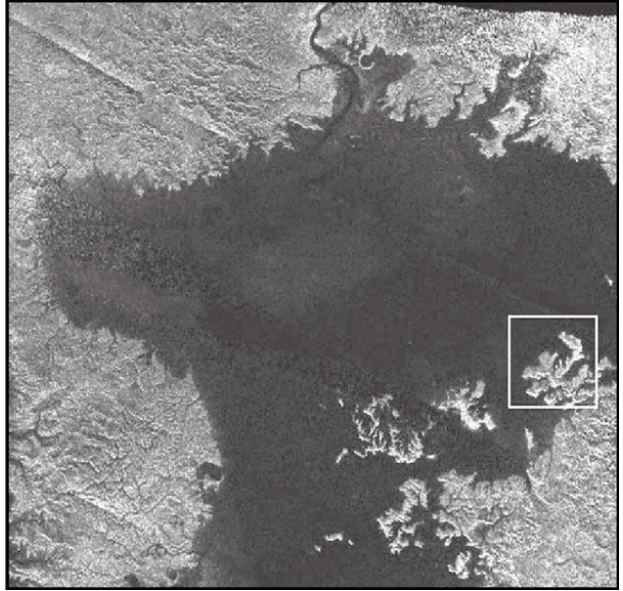
Beneath orange mists
the black lake:
surface oily smooth.

The island appears,
like mythic Avalon,
then disappears.

Floating islands—
maybe an illusion,
bubbles in the sea.

Beneath the mare
leviathan lurks,
invisible.

Beneath the mare
leviathan yawns,
stirring the depths.



*Notes from a lecture "Titan's Magic Islands:
Transient Features in the Hydrocarbon Seas"
by Jason Hofgartner, Caltech, 26 January 2016*

—Geoffrey A. Landis